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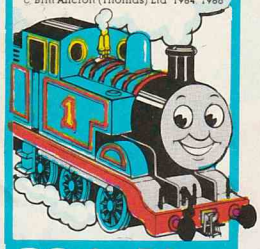


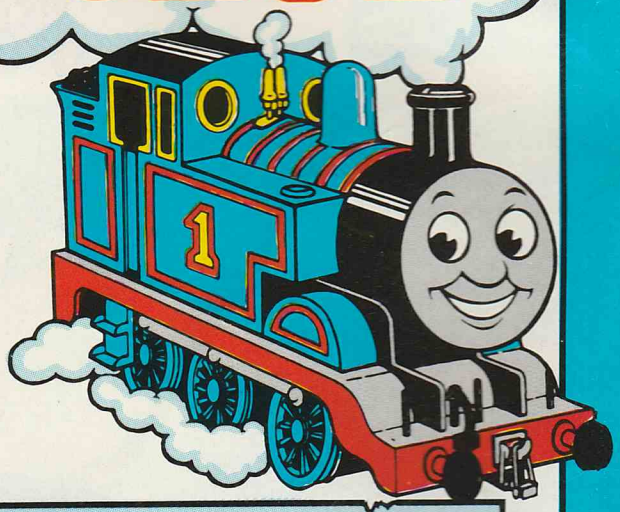
28th Nov.
№ 3 35p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

100 Prizes to be won inside!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE!



Peep! Peep! Hello! In this issue I pull my very own train because Henry was ill – find out what happens by reading the story which begins on the next page!

CLUB PACK!

Join our Club and you will be sent this pack of goodies! All you have to do is collect **3 tokens** like the one at the bottom of the page – there'll be one in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.**

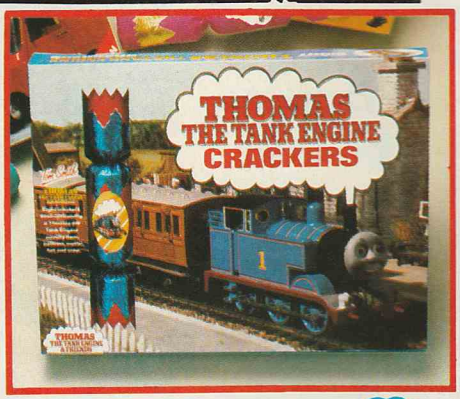
Send them, together with a large, stamped addressed envelope (at least 21cm × 16cm) to: *The Thomas Club, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.*

Please allow 28 days for delivery.

FACT FILE: Thomas the Tank Engine

Thomas is a cheeky, fussy little engine. He often gets into scrapes, but he is never in trouble for long and he's soon bustling about again, playing his part in the yard and on his very own branch line – and he's very proud of *that!*

LOOK



Thomas the Tank Engine Crackers

These exciting and colourful crackers are from the Tom Smith range. We'll be sending a box of **8** crackers to the first **10 readers** to write in to the **Fat Controller** with their name and address – and their own drawing of Thomas on Christmas morning!

THOMAS TOKEN

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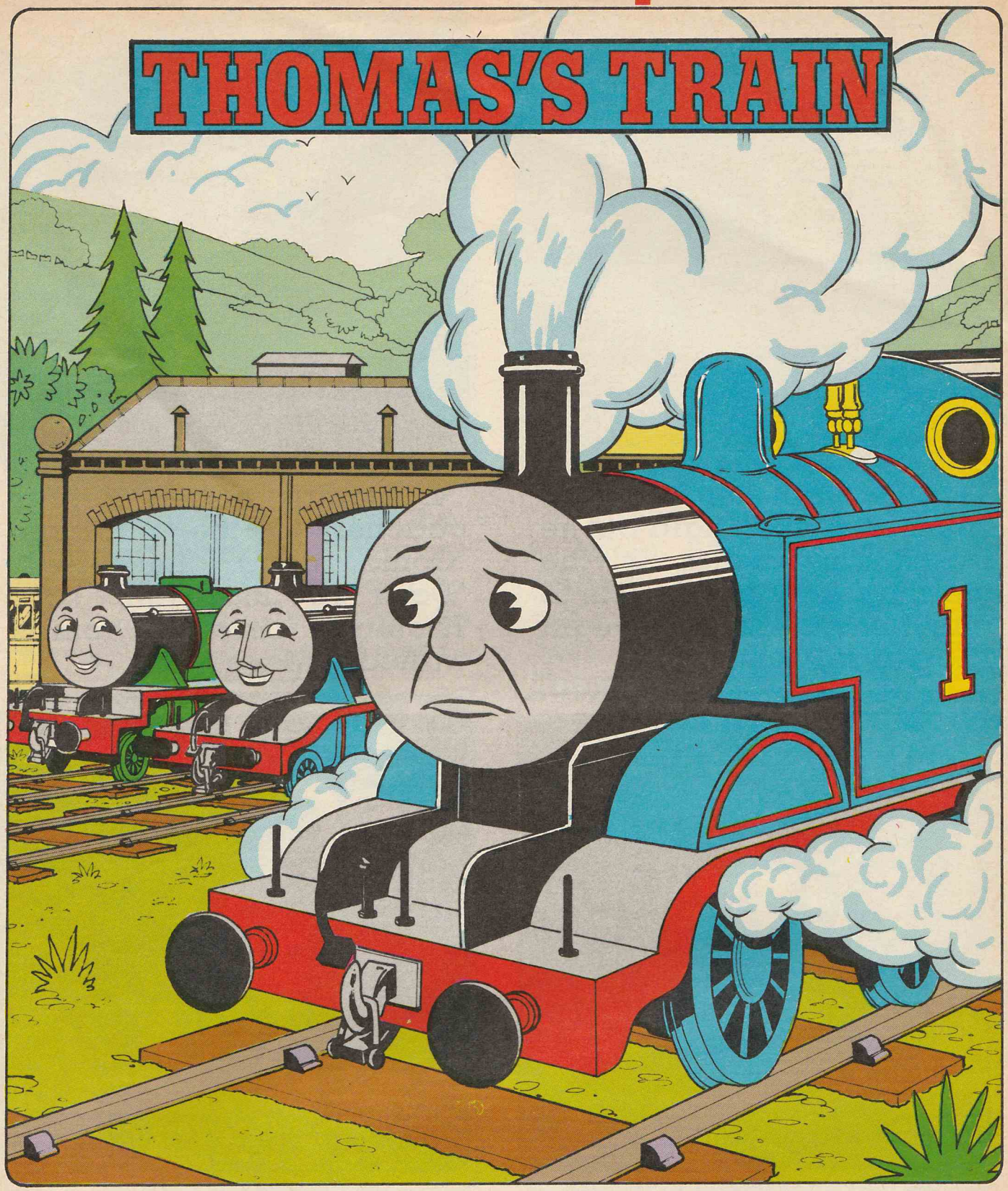
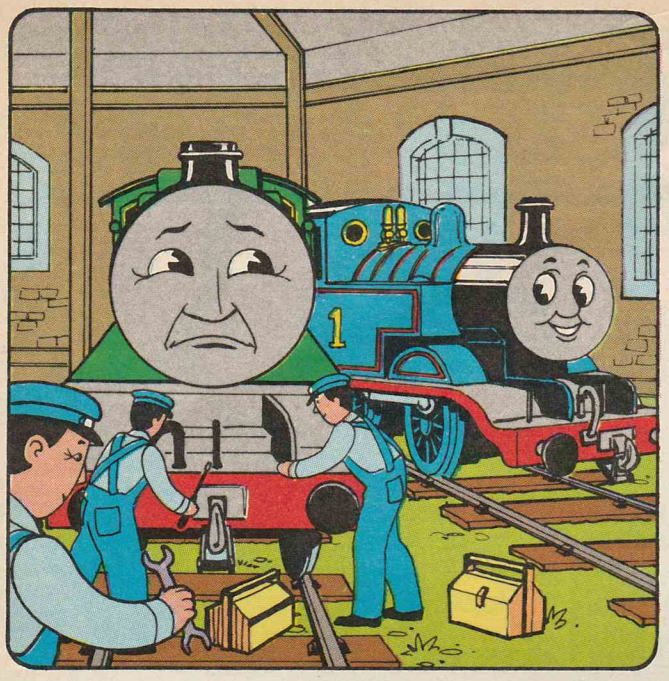
A listen and look story!



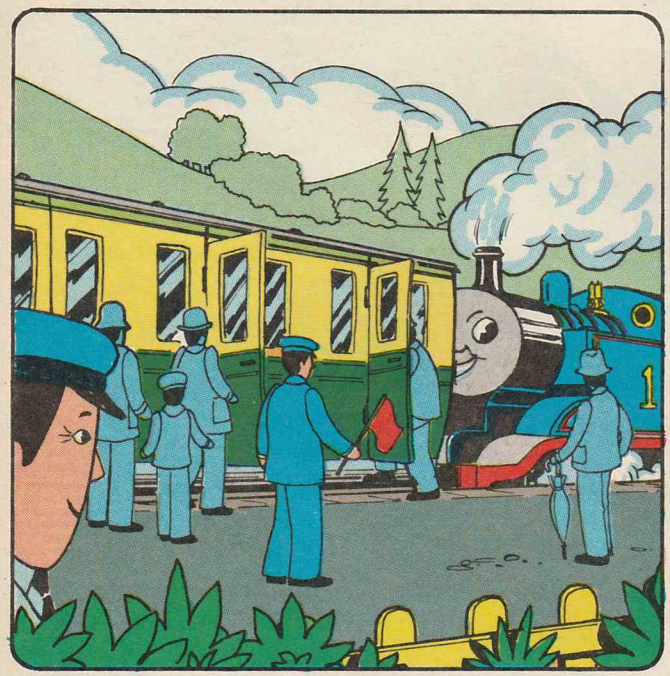
1. Thomas the Tank Engine was grumbling to the other engines. "I only pull the coaches ready for **you** to take on journeys. Why can't I pull passenger trains too?"

2. The other engines laughed. "You are too impatient," they said. "You would probably leave something behind." "Rubbish," said Thomas. "I'll show you."

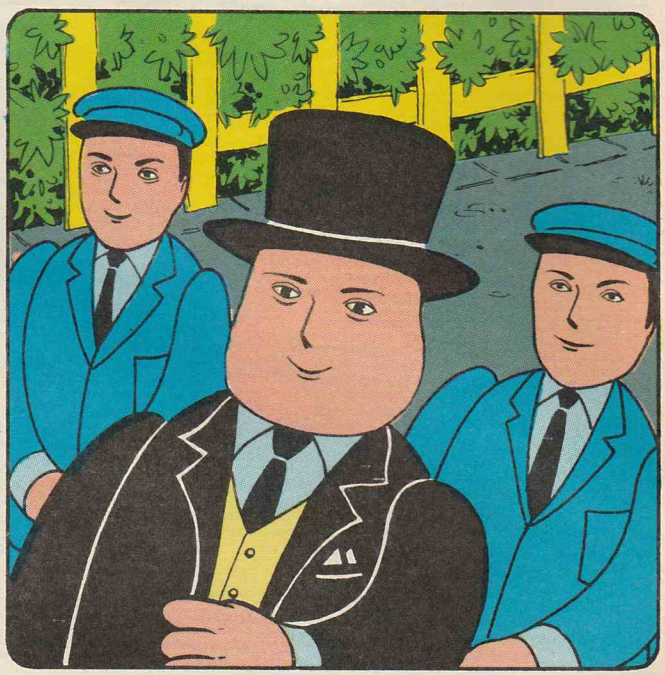


3. One night Henry was ill. The men worked hard but he wasn't any better in the morning. "I might be able to pull Henry's train," thought Thomas to himself.

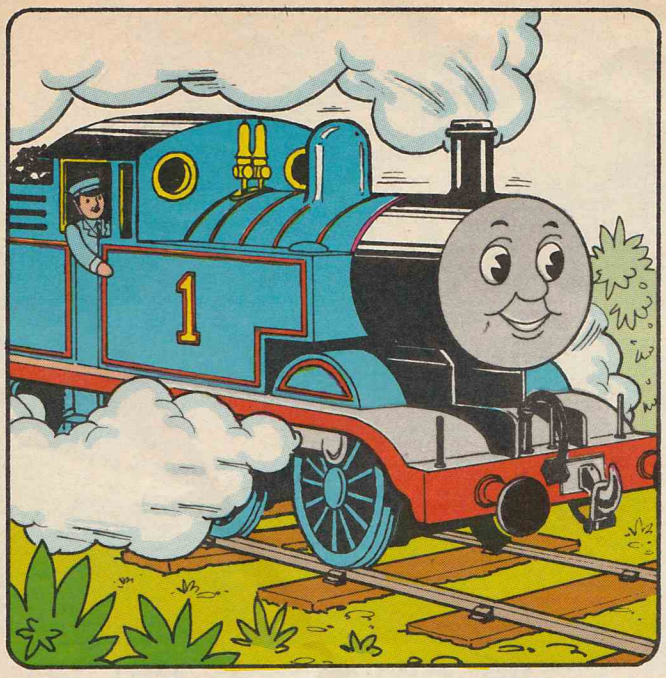
4. Thomas rushed Henry's coaches to the platform. "Come along," he fussed. "Don't be impatient," said Thomas's driver. Thomas waited and waited.



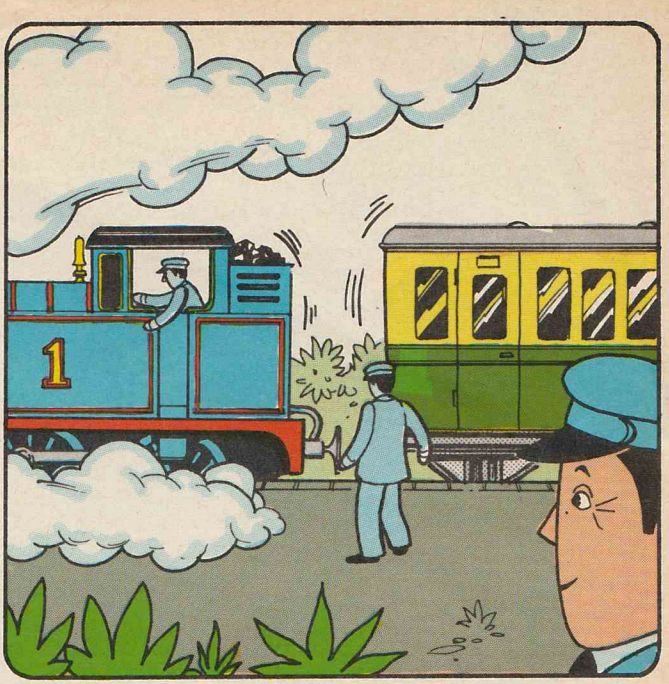
5. The people got in. The station master and the guard walked up and down. Still Henry didn't come. Thomas was getting more and more excited.



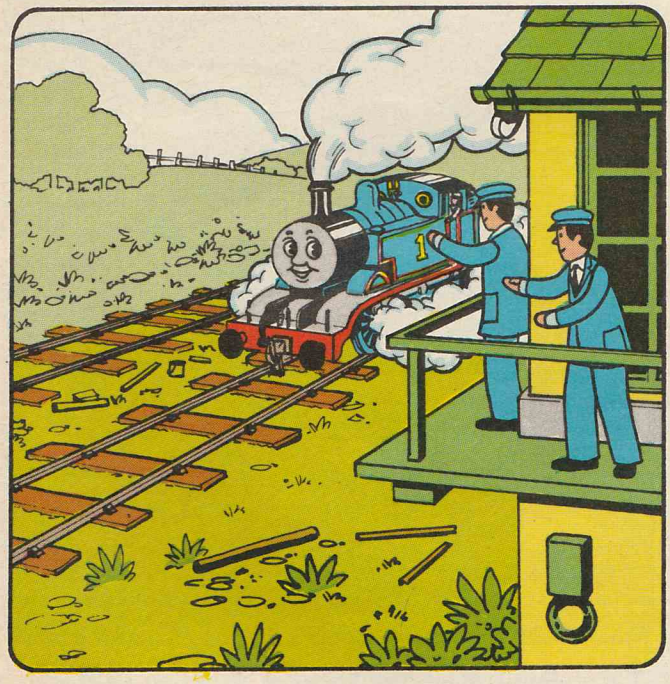
6. "What is the matter?" asked the Fat Controller. Then he heard about Henry. He said, "We need another engine. Thomas, you will have to do it. Be quick now."



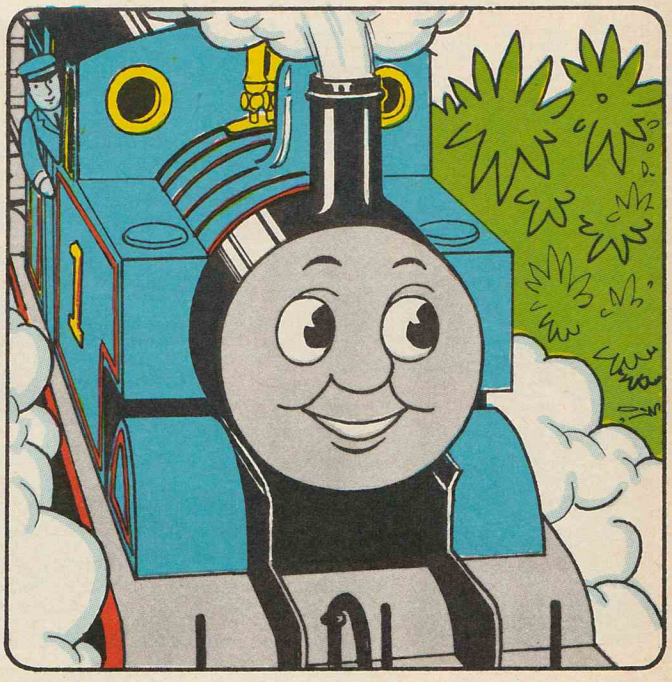
7. Thomas ran round to the front and backed down on the coaches, ready to go. "Wait till everything is ready," said his driver. "Don't be impatient."



8. Thomas was too excited to listen. Perhaps his driver pulled the lever by mistake, or they forgot to couple him to the train. Anyway Thomas started.

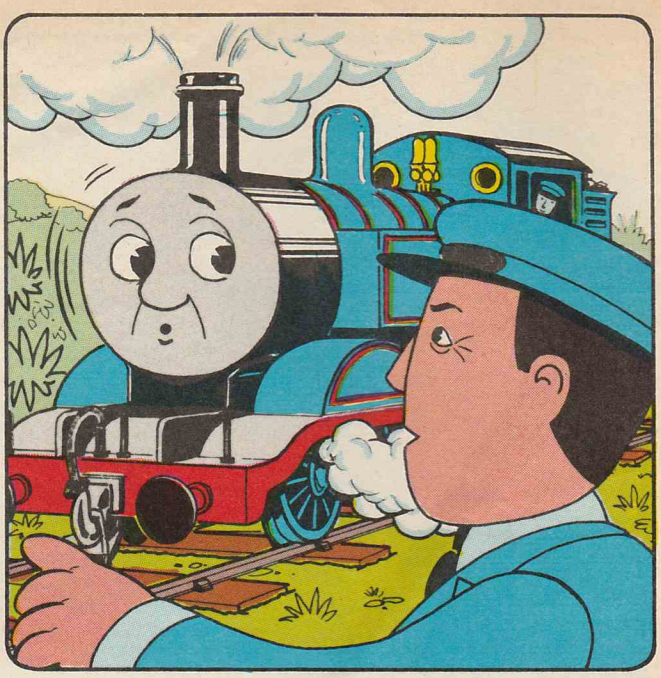


9. Thomas passed the first signal box. The men waved and shouted but Thomas didn't stop. "I must look so splendid pulling this train," thought Thomas.



10. "Peep peep!" whistled Thomas to the men. "Thank you for waving." He felt very important indeed. "Pulling a train isn't as difficult as Henry says it is."

11. Then he came to a signal set at danger. "What a Bother!" he thought. "I must stop and I was going so nicely too. Signals really are such a nuisance."



12. The signalman ran up. "What are you doing here without any coaches?" he asked. Thomas looked back. "Oh," he said. "We've left them behind."

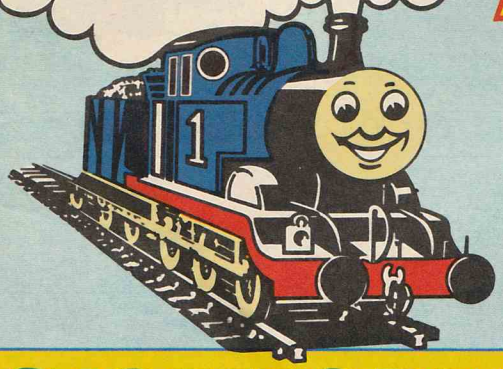
13. All the passengers were cross until they saw Thomas coming back, looking so sad. Then he was coupled to the train and this time he really pulled it.

14. But for a long time afterwards the other engines laughed at Thomas saying, "There's Thomas! He wanted to pull a train, but forgot about the coaches."

THE END

In our next issue: Thomas gets his own branch line!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



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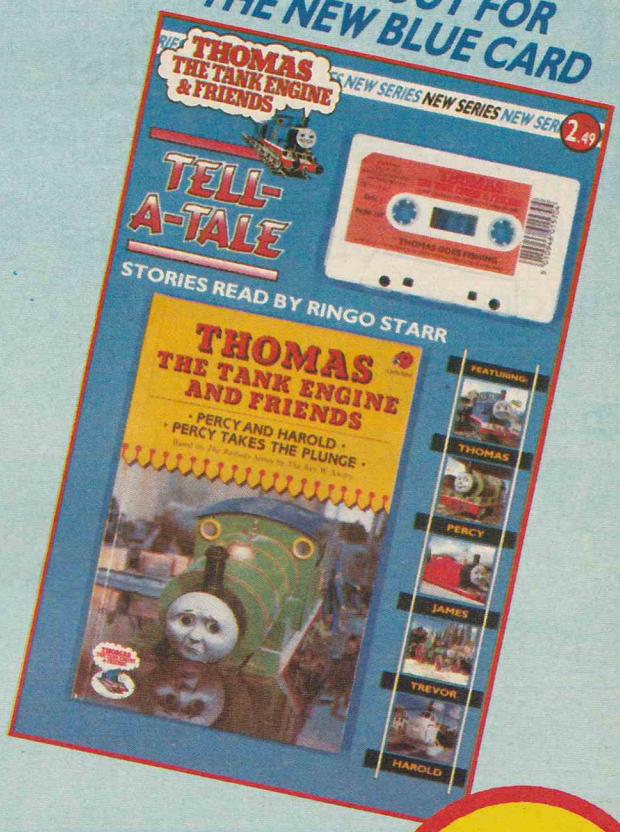

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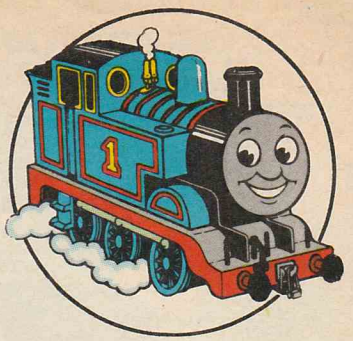
A read-aloud story!

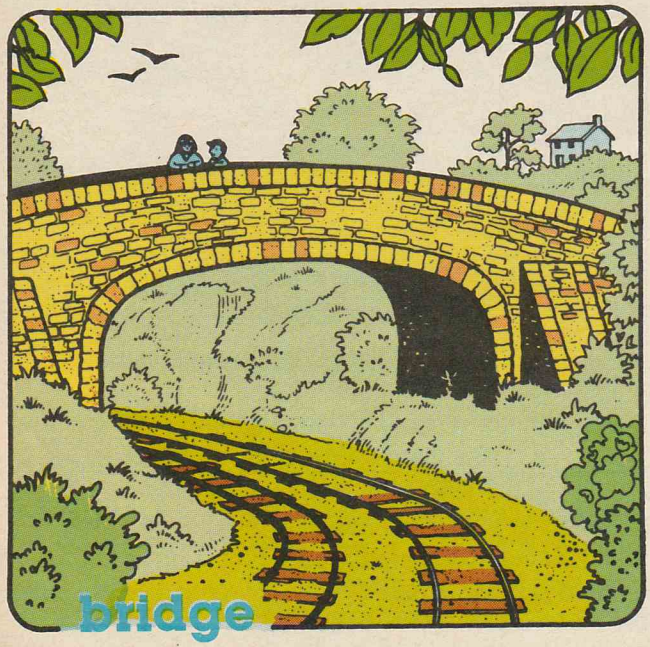
Hello Thomas!



Every afternoon Thomas pulls his coaches, Annie and Clarabel, along the branch line to the station.

"Hello, Thomas!" call the children from the bridge.

"Peep! Peep!" whistles Thomas.



Henry was waiting as Thomas pulled into the station.

"Late again, Thomas! The Fat Controller will get a new engine if you don't hurry up!"

"He would never do that," thought Thomas to himself. But all that night he stayed awake worrying about what Henry had said.

The next afternoon Thomas hurried along the line pulling his coaches. "You mustn't be late, you mustn't be late!" giggled Annie and Clarabel.

Thomas came to the bridge. He saw a small boy waving to him.

"I can't stop today," Thomas whistled. "I mustn't be late."

Then he heard the boy shout. "Help, Thomas! Help!"

Thomas' driver pulled on the brakes and Thomas stopped.

"What can be the matter?" Thomas wondered. "If I don't hurry the Fat Controller might get rid of me."

The boy explained that the school bus had broken down. "Our parents will be cross if we are late home for tea."

Then Thomas' driver told the children to climb into Annie and Clarabel. Then Thomas took them to the next station where his friend, Bertie the bus,was waiting to take them home.

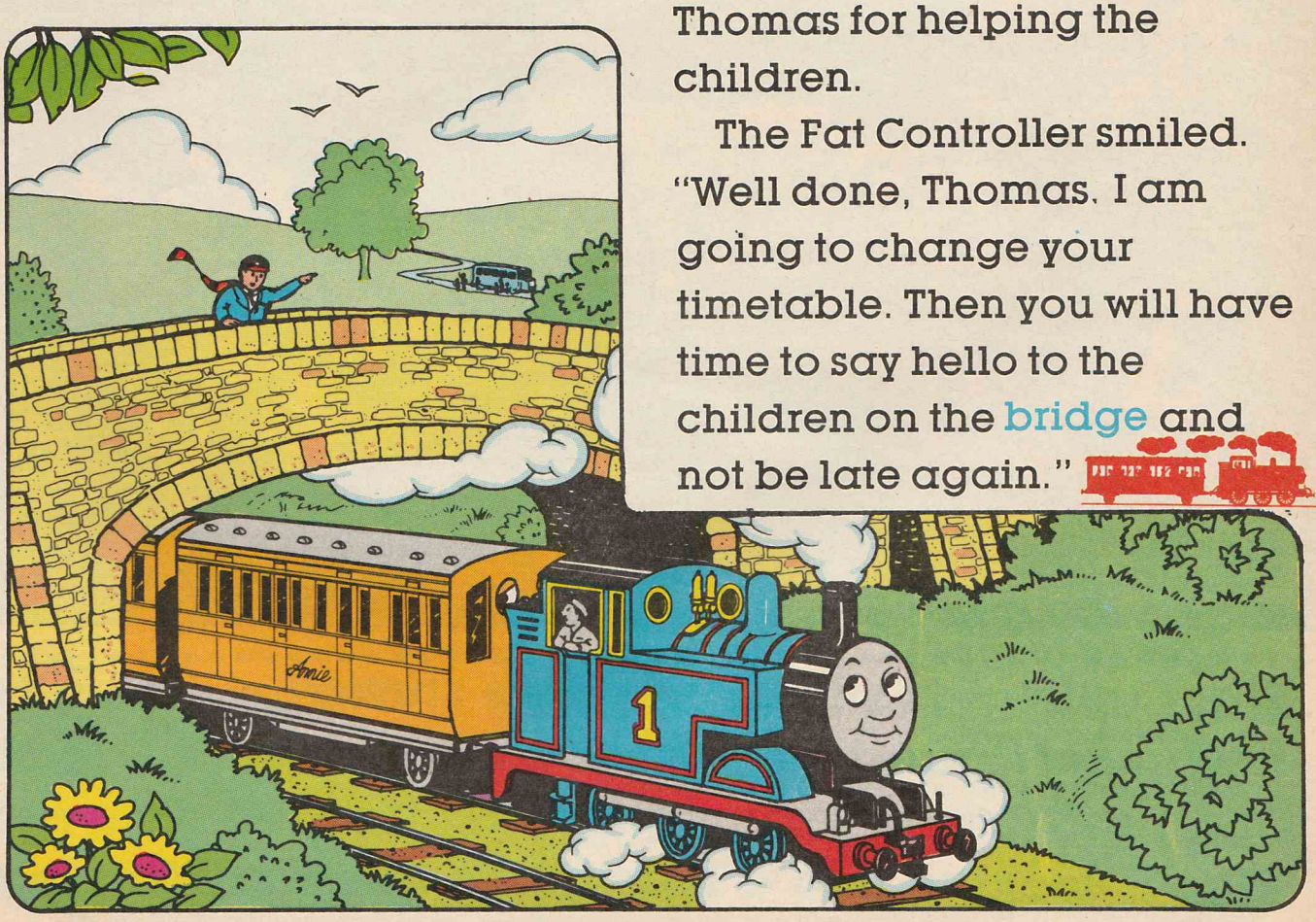
When Thomas got back to the station he was very late.

The Fat Controller did not look pleased.

"Told him so," puffed Henry grandly. "Thomas is in trouble now!"

Just then the school bus driver arrived. He thanked Thomas for helping the children.

The Fat Controller smiled. "Well done, Thomas. I am going to change your timetable. Then you will have time to say hello to the children on the bridge and not be late again."



Through the w

What animal is sitting on a tree stump?
How many toadstools can you see?
Are they blue, red or purple?
Who is looking into a hole in the tree trunk?

Can you
Is it Spri
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wood!

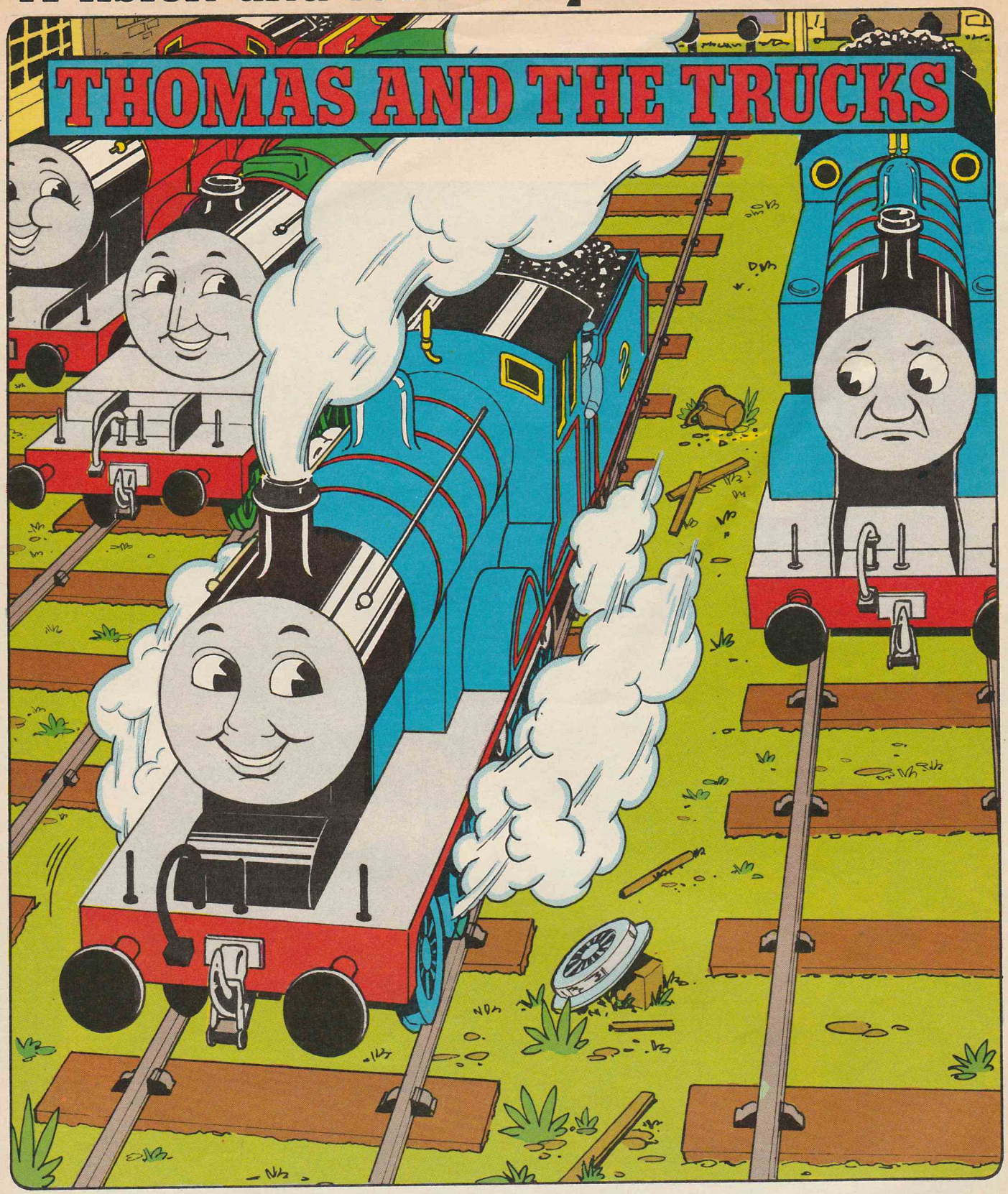
n you find a caterpillar?
Springtime?
at colour are the berries?
n you count them all?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

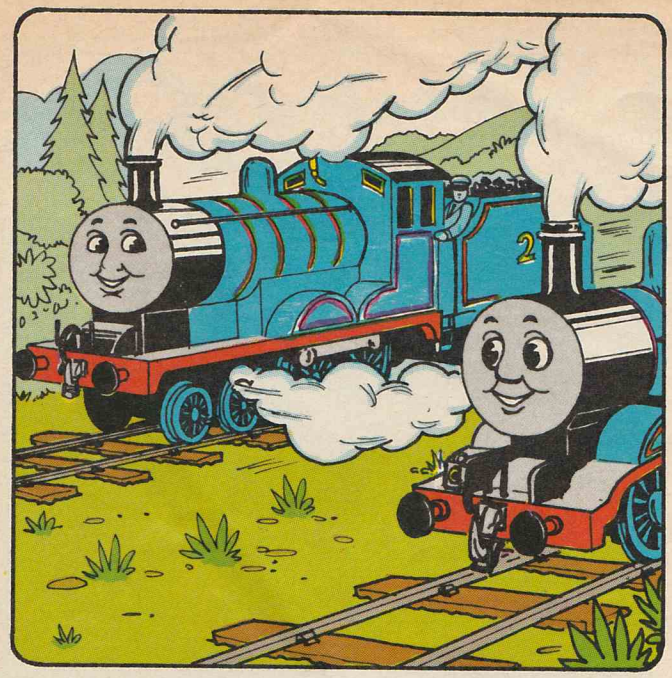
Next: Into the station!

A listen and look story!



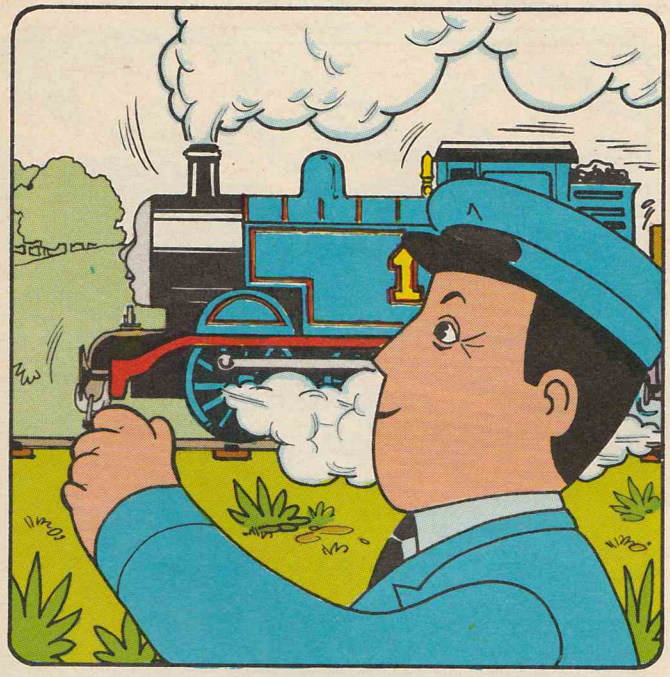
1. Thomas kept the other engines awake at night, "I'm tired of pushing coaches. I want to see the world." The other engines didn't take much notice.

2. Then one night, Edward came to the shed. "Perhaps you'd like to take my coaches for me, Thomas, and I'll stay in the yard tomorrow," he said.

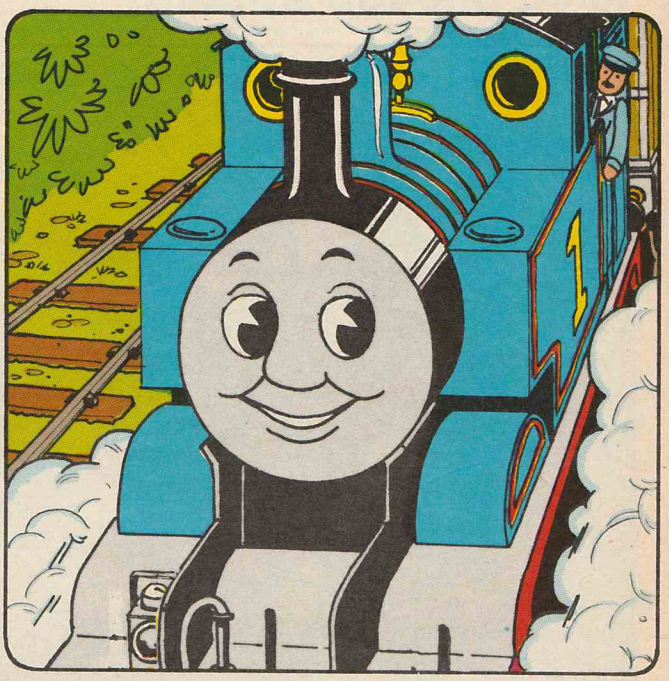


3. Edward and Thomas asked their drivers the next morning, and they said, "Yes." Thomas ran off happily to find trucks. But trucks can be very noisy and silly.

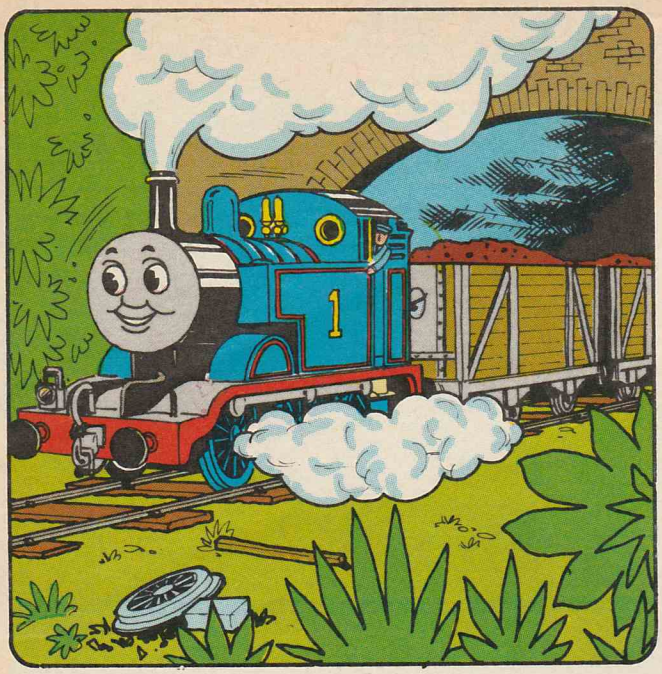
4. Sometimes they play tricks on an engine who is not used to them. Edward warned Thomas, telling him to be careful. But Thomas was too excited to listen.



5. The shunter fastened the coupling, and when the signal dropped Thomas was ready. The guard blew his whistle. Thomas answered, "Peep, peep!" Off he went.

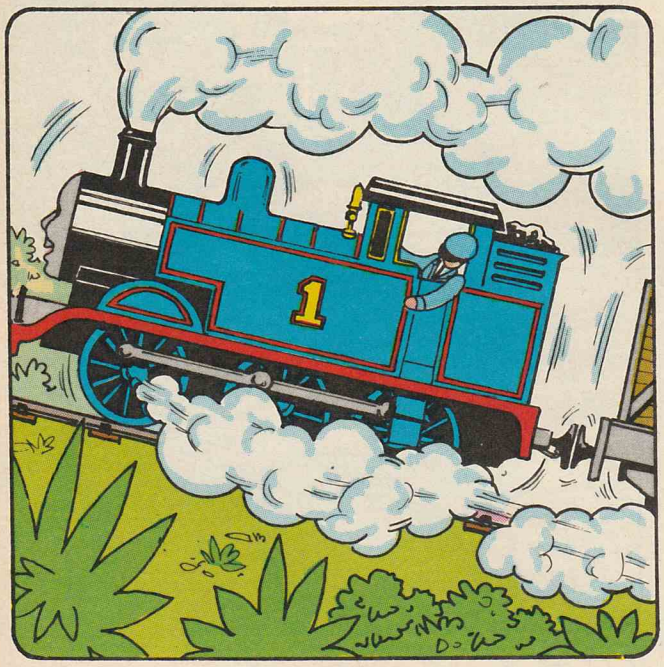


6. But the trucks weren't ready. "Oh, oh," they screamed. "Wait, Thomas." "Come along, come along," puffed Thomas. "All right, all right," grumbled the trucks.

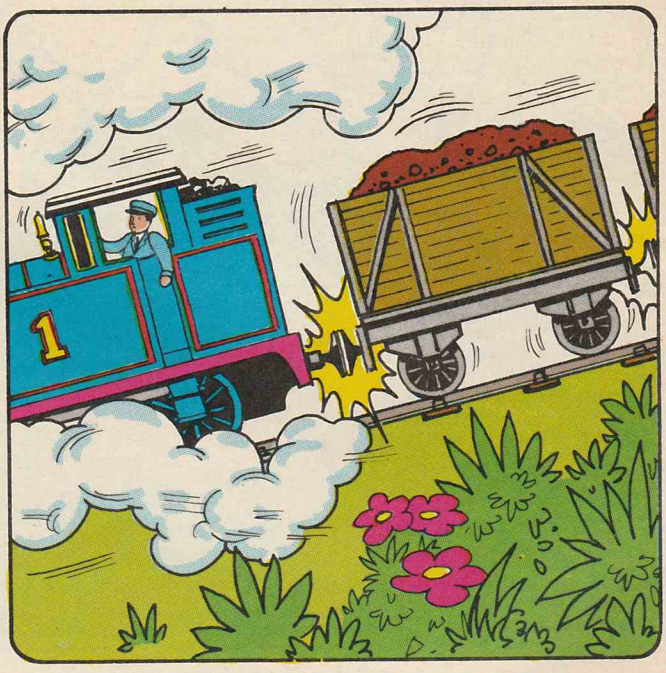


7. Thomas was going faster and faster. "Peep!" he whistled as they rushed through Henry's tunnel. They rumbled past fields and clattered through stations.

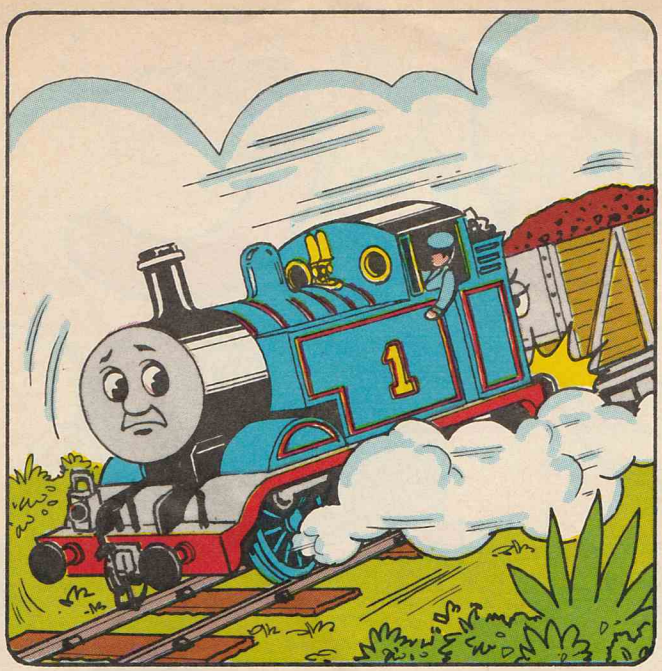
8. "Hurry, hurry," called Thomas. He was feeling very proud of himself. But the trucks grew crosser and crosser. Thomas slowed down as he came to Gordon's hill.



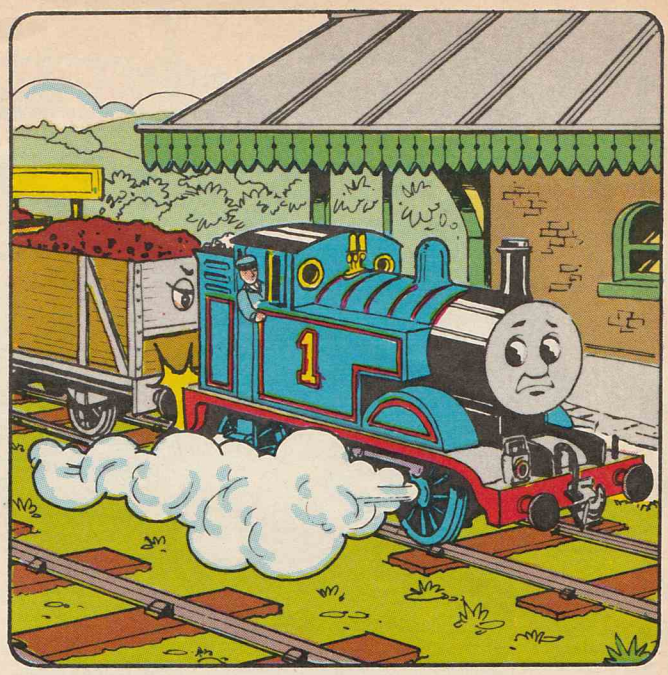
9. Thomas climbed the hill. "Keep it steady," warned his driver as they reached the top. "Steady now, steady." He shut off steam and began to put on the brakes.



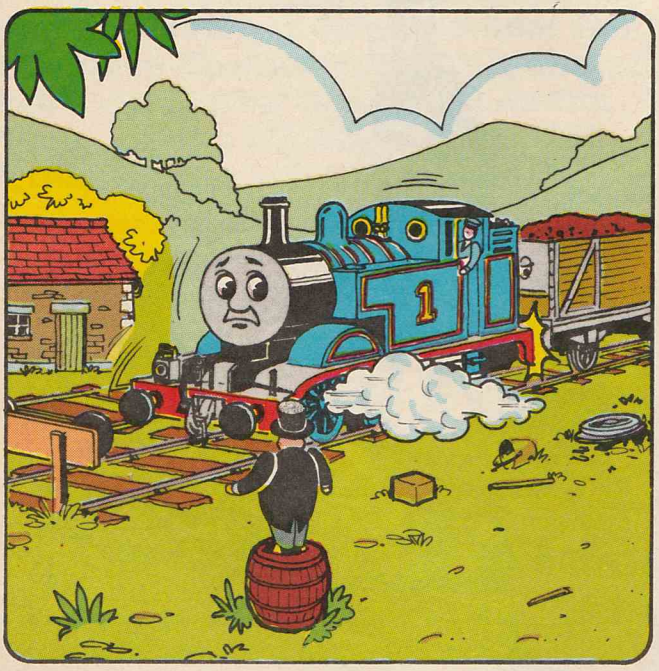
10. "We're stopping, we're stopping," called Thomas. But the trucks said, "No, no, no, no." They bumped into each other and began to push Thomas down the hill.



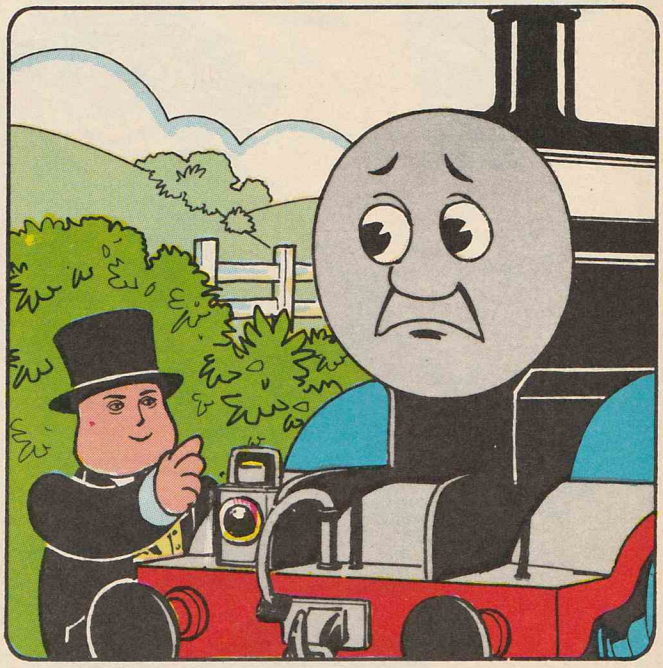
11. Poor Thomas tried hard to stop them making him go so fast. "Stop pushing, stop pushing," he hissed, but the trucks took no notice. They just giggled.



12. Thomas was travelling much too fast to stop at the next station. They rattled straight through and swerved into the goods yard. Thomas shut his eyes.



13. Thomas stopped just in front of the buffers. The Fat Controller was there. "Why did you come in so fast?" he asked. "I was pushed," said Thomas sadly.



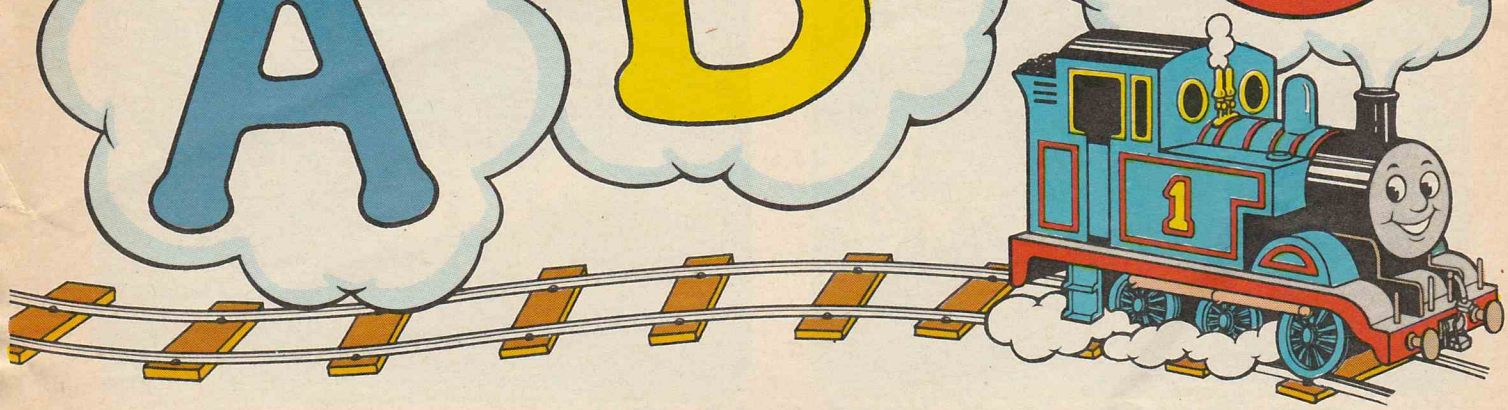
14. "You've got a lot to learn about trucks, little Thomas," said the Fat Controller."When you know as much about them as Edward, you will be a Really Useful Engine."

THE END

In our next issue: James and the boot lace!

Cut out and collect!

A B C



Cc

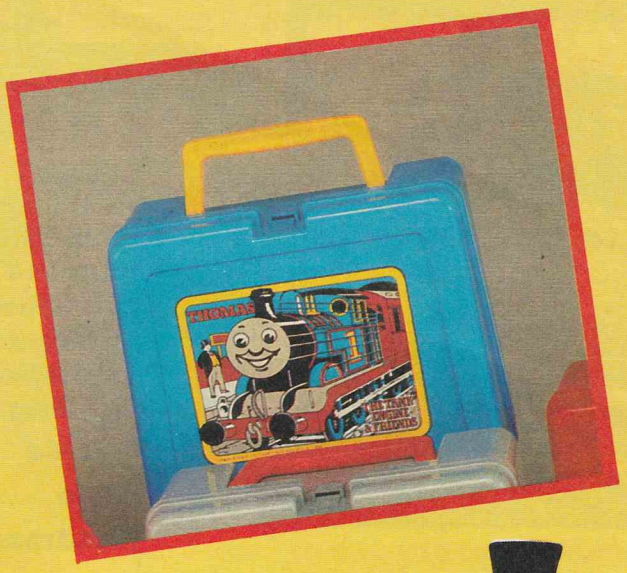
clown

COMPETITION!

100 Fabulous Prizes to be won!

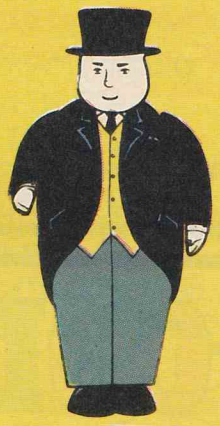
How would you like to win one of these splendid prizes? There are 50 terrific *Thomas the Tank Engine* lunch boxes from *Bluebird* just waiting to be snapped up! And inside each lunch box there's a Big Mouth Flask too!

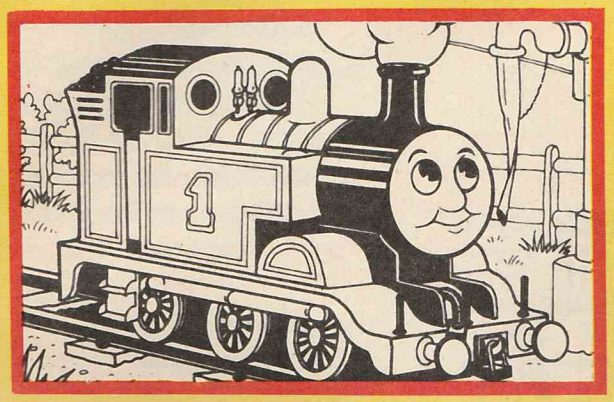
Another 50 lucky winners will be sent a marvellous *Mug, Beaker and Bowl Set* in a smart presentation pack! They're all from *Bluebird* – they're *colourful* – and they're *fun!*

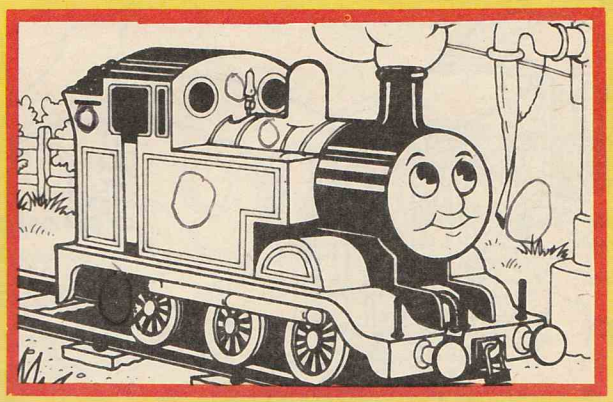


How to Enter

Look carefully at the two pictures of Thomas below. There are **6 differences** – can you spot them? Put a ring round each difference, and fill in the form below, very neatly. Then cut along the dotted line and send your entry to: *Thomas's Splendid Spot The Difference Competition, The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.* The first **100** correct entries will win a prize!







Name.....

Address.....

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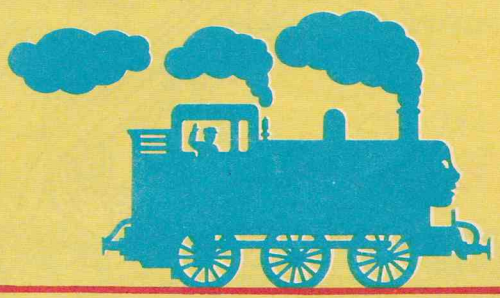
My favourite engine is.....



Entries must reach us by Monday, 14th December 1987.

Rules: No employee of Marvel Comics Ltd, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, William Heinemann Ltd or Bluebird Toys plc may enter this competition. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

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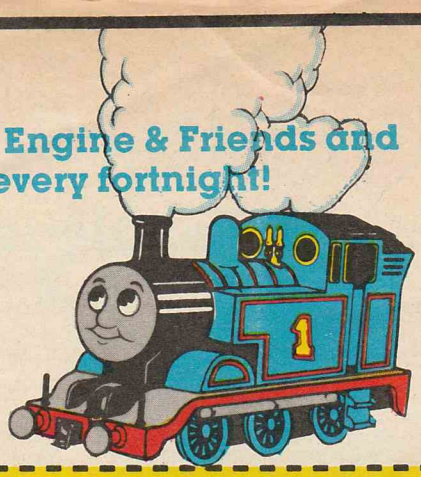

What's more, if you do not already belong to the Thomas Club, you will automatically become an immediate member and your exciting Club Pack will be sent to you too!

It costs £9 including postage and packing to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for one year. Just fill in the form on the right and send it, together with a cheque or postal order for £9 to: *Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.* Make your cheque or postal order payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

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***I should like to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends* for one year and enclose cheque/postal order for £9 to include postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member of the Thomas Club if I do not already belong!**

Name....

Age ..... Birthday .....

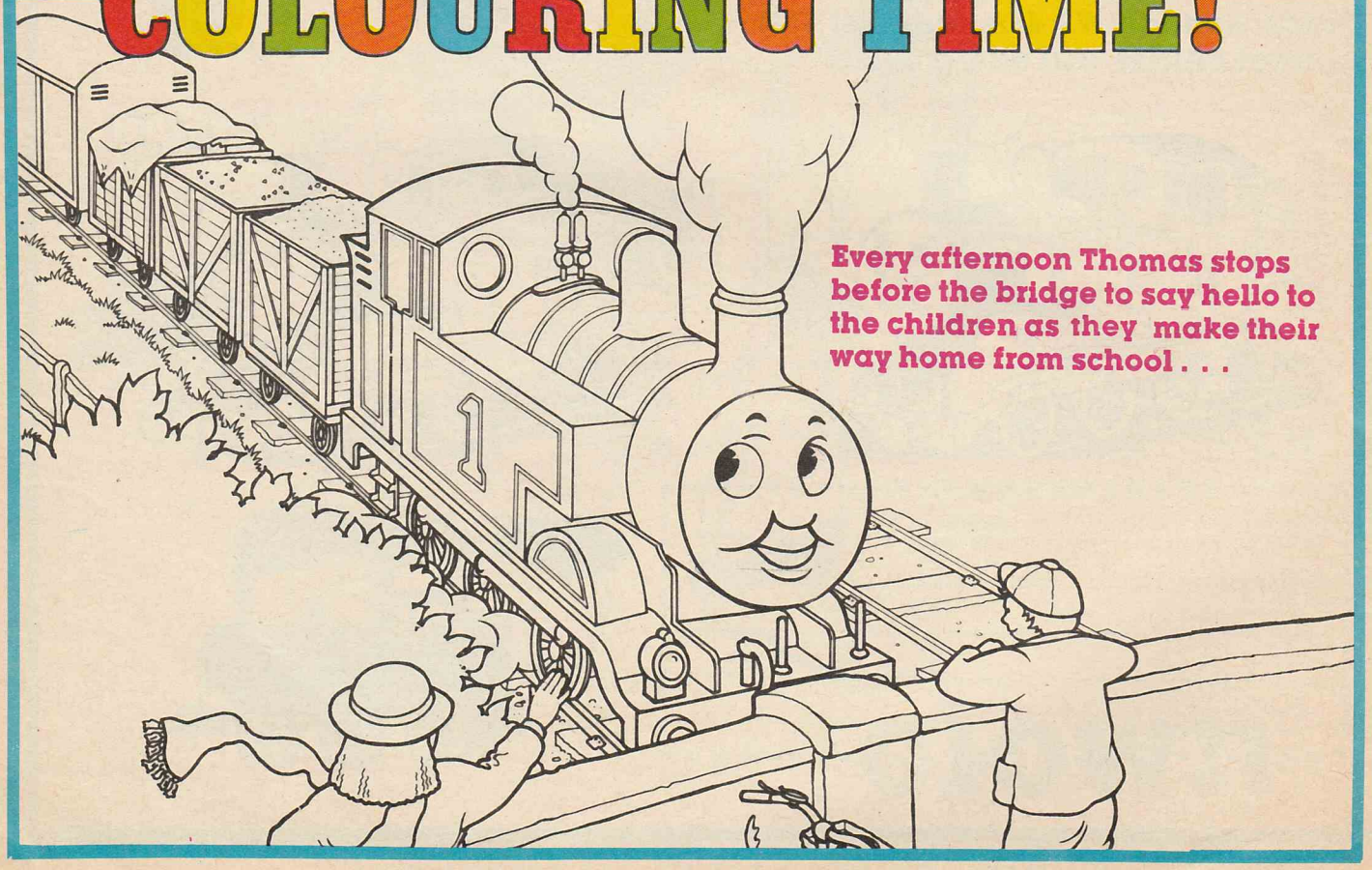
Address .....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

Thomas Subscriptions, Marvel Comics, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

COLOURING TIME!



Every afternoon Thomas stops before the bridge to say hello to the children as they make their way home from school . . .

Write to:

THE FAT CONTROLLER

Have you got a funny story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me? I'd be so pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER PRIZES!

The sender of the best letter which is printed on this page will win a super **Thomas the Tank Engine Mug** from **Bluebird!** So don't forget to include your address if you write!

I'M GORDON!

Dear Fat Controller,
My name is Gordon, the same as your fastest engine. I am a fast runner. Sometimes I pretend to be Gordon the Big Express Engine.

Love from **Gordon White,** aged 6.

Yes, Gordon is a very fine engine indeed, although he boasts sometimes. Do you? I hope not!

POOR HENRY!

Dear Fat Controller,
Please do not brick any of your engines up in a tunnel again. Whenever I read the Sad Story of Henry it makes me cry because he looks so sad.

Clara Meadows.

I felt sorry for Henry too, Clara, but I think being bricked up taught him a lesson.

WHO'S THE YOUNGEST?

Dear Fat Controller,
Who is the youngest out of James and Percy? They are my favourite engines!

Love from **Chris Dean,** aged 5.

Percy is one of my most recent arrivals, and a very happy little engine he is too!

JAMES'S JAPES!

What do you call a penguin in the Sahara Desert?
Lost!

Mickey Speales.

What do you call a person who sits in a pram and wobbles?
A jelly baby!

Andrew Clay.

When is the best time to buy budgies?
When they are going cheep!

Martin Summers.

BIRTHDAYS!

If you'd like me to mention your birthday on this page, send me details on a postcard, at least **8 weeks** in advance!

Sir Topham Hatt.

The Fat Controller

Send your letters to:

The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 23 Redan Place, London W2 4SA.

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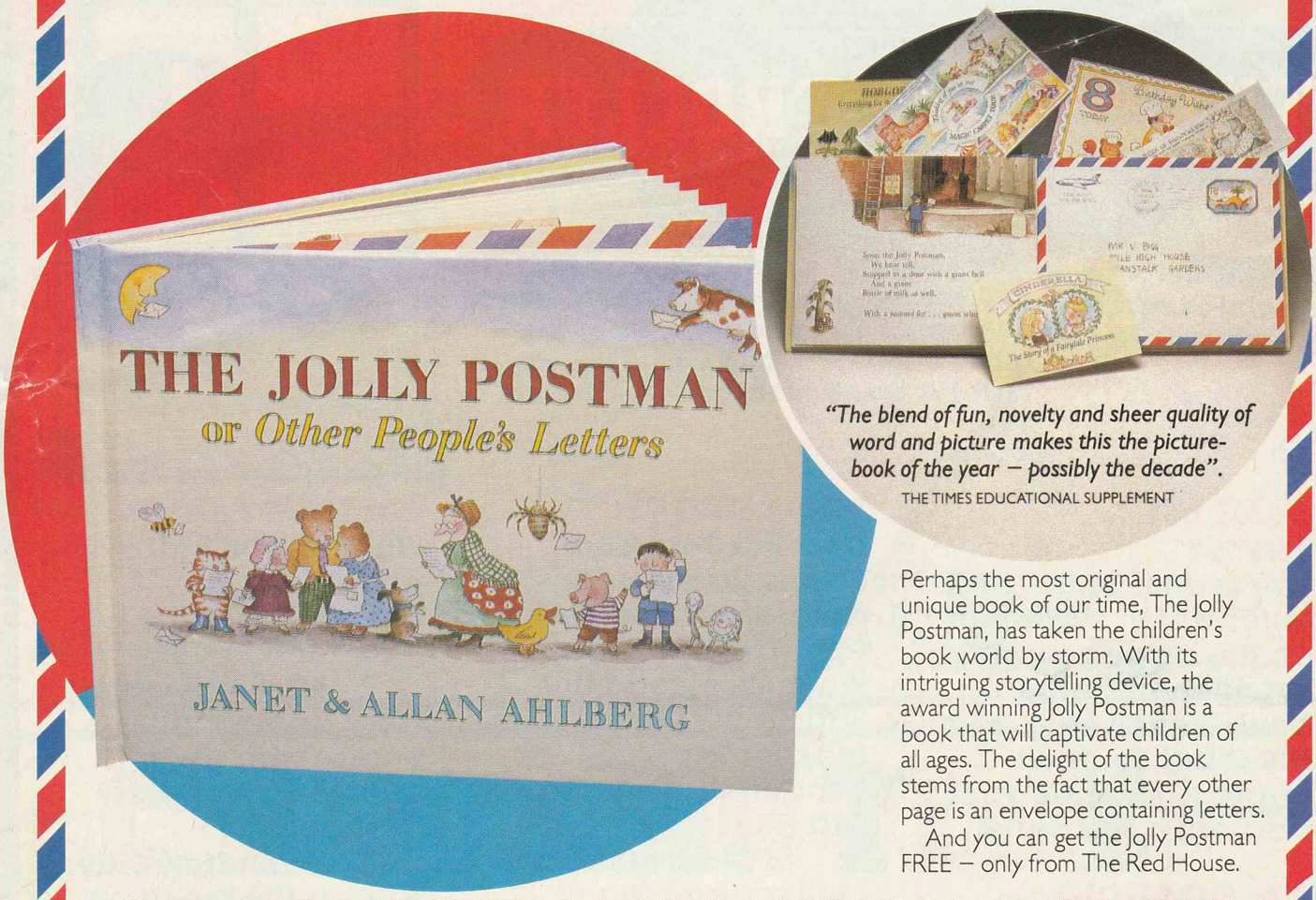

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NAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

Children's names and dates of birth.

TOM-28-11-87

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